9/18/71

Dear Ned,

Our guests seem to have been delayed. I'd scheduled my work to be clear when they arrive. So, I've time for a brief note, having gone over and answered all of today's heavy mail and all the new stuff from Ray save the 90 minutes on tape.

First, we did enjoy your visit, and the faint suggestion of hope, which we long ago came to recognize can't be accepted as reality until it becomes the reality, is perhaps a healthy thing. It is in any event welcome.

Next let me say I had an unexpected call from a 24-year-old friend who is a buff. When I told him no more than that we were hoping to be able to arrange for both a private printing of the full work (he has read the older parts) and a simultaneous condensed and more popular version, he was excited.

I had to write Sylvia today and I asked her if she could take time for only a blue-pencilling of the excess anger in what was III. She is very busy. But she could do it admirably.

And, in case you didn't know it or I didn't make it clear, this is what we had expected FRAME-UP to be.

Not as involving you, for you should complete your thesis, I would welcome the same thing, a condensed and popularized AGENT OSWALD. I know you haven't seen the four chapters I've done.

I've dropped Gary a note explaining that we have suffered no major deterioration and why I've not been sending him so much.

Best regards,

The enclosed is, I hope, self-explanatory. The addressee is the Bantam editor who, if he can find time, can give us these answers. I wrote it early this a.m.